

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00466 291625Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 291428Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1315

INFO COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

CNO WASHINGTON DC

DOD/ISA WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 0466

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : STATUS MIDDLE EAST FORCE

REF : JIDDA 3706

1. NOTWITHSTANDING URGENT NEED TO RESOLVE MIDEASTFOR QUESTION, A FEW DAYS DELAY IN FAHD'S PROMISED EXCHANGE WITH GOB WILL COST US LITTLE AS PRACTICAL MATTER. GOB IS HOLDING ITS BREATH THROUGH JUNE 30 ADJOURNMENT OF SOMETIMES OBSTREPEROUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE RECONVENED BEFORE 3RD WEEK OF OCTOBER, AFTER RAMADAN. GOB IS DISPLAYING FIRMNESS IN LAST WEEK OR SO IN DEALING WITH LABOR AND POLITICAL AGITATORS, AND SURFACE SITUATION IS QUIET, BUT KEY GOB OFFICIALS ARE AT MOMENT PREOCCUPIED WITH THESE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS, AND WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FOREIGN MINISTER IS OFF JULY 1 FOR QTE 3-4 DAYS UNQTE IN CAIRO, PRESUMABLY IN CONNECTION WITH ARAB DEFENSE MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

2. BY ABOUT JULY 6 GOB WILL HAVE HAD CHANCE TO LICK ITS PARLIAMENTARY WOUNDS AND GET DOWN TO SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00466 291625Z

HOW TO HANDLE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE OVER NEXT NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY SESSION. QUESTION OF MIDEASTFOR STATUS SHOULD BE
CRANKED INTO THIS REVIEW, SO PERIOD JULY 6-12 WOULD SEEM BEST
POSSIBLE TIME FOR US TO APPROACH GOB DIRECTLY.
TWINAM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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